

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-35 are pending in the application. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 18, 19, 22-25, 30, 32, and 33.

Claims 1-3, 8, 14-17, 20, 21, 26, 27, 29, 31, 34 and 35 are rejected as anticipated by BARAK et al. EP 0922986. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 includes an illumination system that alternately emits a first linearly polarized light beam and a second linearly polarized light beam having directions of polarization that differ by 90°. Independent claim 2 includes this same limitation. Independent claim 27 provides an illumination means for alternately directing a P-polarized light beam and an S-polarized light beam to a polarization beam splitter. Independent claim 34 includes this same limitation of claim 27.

Figure 1 of BARAK et al., for example, shows a non-polarized light source 10, such as an arc lamp based illuminator, which directs a beam of light onto a polarizing beam splitter/combiner 12. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the specification of BARAK et al. and have been unable to discern an

illumination system for alternately emitting a first linearly polarized light beam and a second linearly polarized light beam having directions of polarization that differ by 90° as recited in claims 1 and 2. Similarly, the specification of BARAK et al. fails to disclose or suggest an illumination means for alternately directing a P-polarized light beam and an S-polarized light beam to a polarization beam splitter.

The only polarized light beams of BARAK et al. are downstream of the polarizing beam splitter 12. These light beams are simultaneously reflected from color splitters 22 and 24 and combined by the polarizing beam splitter/combiner 12. The light beams are then output as a combined modulated light beam to an objective lens 70. BARAK et al. do not teach or suggest alternately emitting polarized light beams.

Claims 3, 8, 14-17, 20, 21, 26, 29, 31, and 35 depend from one of claims 1, 2, 27, and 34 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over BARAK et al.

In addition, the dependent claims include features not disclosed by BARAK et al. For example, claim 14 provides that the illumination system comprises an emitted optical path switching means for alternately emitting light beams from the light source in two directions. The Official Action has indicated that element 12 is an emitted optical path switching means.

However, element 12 of BARAK et al. does not alternately emit light beams from light sources in two directions. Rather, the light beams are simultaneously received and split.

Claims 16 and 17 provide that the light source switches between emitting red light, green light and blue light. Column 3, paragraph [0018] noted in the Official Action, refers to color splitters 22, 24. These color splitters receive light and then separate the received light into respective R, G and B components, so that the red, green and blue light is simultaneously emitted. Elements 22 and 24 of BARAK et al. are not a light source that switches between emitting red light, green light and a blue light.

Claims 20 and 21 provide that the synthesizing optics include a polarized light beam combiner for combining the first linearly polarized light beam and the second linearly polarized light beam. The Official Action indicates that element 12 of BARAK et al. meet this limitation.

However, the Official Action had previously indicated that element 12 was a polarizing beam splitter for splitting the first and second beams in different directions. It is not apparent how element 12 can be splitting and combining the first and second linearly polarized light beams.

Based on page 3, paragraphs [0022] - [0026] of BARAK et al., it appears that element 12 splits the first and second linearly polarized light beams and then combines modulated light beams. These modulated light beams (56, 68) are not the recited first and second linearly polarized light beams. BARAK et al. do not teach or suggest a polarized light beam combiner for combining the first linearly polarized light beam and the second linearly polarized light beam as recited.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 20 are rejected as anticipated by TAKIGUCHI et al. JP 2000-244211. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 includes an illumination system for alternately emitting a first linearly polarized light beam and a second linearly polarized light beam having directions of polarization that differ by 90°.

Applicants have thoroughly reviewed TAKIGUCHI et al. and are unable to discern an illumination system for alternately emitting a first linearly polarized light beam and a second linearly polarized light beam. Specifically, the beams of TAKIGUCHI et al. are not alternately emitted.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 20 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over TAKIGUCHI et al.

Claims 1-3 and 27 are rejected as anticipated by LEE 6,536,902. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 includes an illumination system for alternately emitting a first linearly polarized light beam and a second linearly polarized light beam having directions of polarization that differ by 90°. Claims 2 and 27 include similar limitations.

Column 4, lines 60-63 of LEE discloses a lamp 36 for emitting a beam of light. However, neither this passage nor any other passage of LEE teaches an illumination system for alternately emitting a first linearly polarized light beam and a second linearly polarized light beam having directions of polarization that differ by 90°.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection cannot be maintained.

Claims 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 27, 28, 29, and 31 are rejected as unpatentable over TAKIGUCHI et al. in view of LEE. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 2 includes an illumination system for alternately emitting a first linearly polarized light beam and a second linearly polarized light beam.

Paragraphs [0023] and [0050] of TAKIGUCHI et al. teach using the light emitting diodes as one unit to synchronize the light. TAKIGUCHI et al. do not disclose or suggest alternately emitting polarized light beams. In LEE, a polarized light beam

is split and sent to two displays. LEE does not teach or suggest alternately emitting polarized light beams as recited in claim 2. Claim 27 is similar to claim 2. Accordingly, the proposed combination of references would not render obvious claims 2 and 27 and the claims that depend therefrom.

By way of further explanation, page 26, lines 11-13 of the present application disclose that linearly polarized light source 1011, for example, alternates in time between emitting linearly polarized light beams (P-polarized light beams and S-polarized light beams) for which the polarization direction differs by 90°. None of the cited references disclose or suggest that a light source alternates in time between emitting linearly polarized light beams.

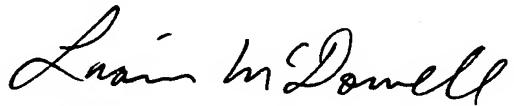
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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LM/mjr
March 3, 2005